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OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
DIFFERENT METHODS
OF TREATING THE
VENEREAL DISEASE.

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

IT is judiciously remarked, by one of the most elegant historians of the present age * that the Americans, by communicating the venereal disease to their conquerors, have not only amply revenged their own wrongs, but by adding this calamity to those which formerly embittered human life, they have perhaps more than counterbalanced all the benefits which Europe has derived from the discovery of the new world. I presume this will not appear the least exaggeration, on a due consideration of the many ills entailed on the Europeans ever since the introduction of this disease among them.

WHEN it is considered, with what astonishment and surprize, the physicians, at the close of the fifteenth century, beheld the introduction and rapid propagation

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* Dr. Robertson in his History of America.

tion of the venereal disease throughout all Europe, the degree of attention with which it has ever since been considered by the medical literati, and the numerous specifics every day held out for it's easy, safe, and expeditious cure, the subject may, by some, be deemed exhausted, and the present undertaking totally superfluous.

BUT it must be observed, that many concurring circumstances retarded, for a long time, the progress that physicians and surgeons otherwise would have made in the true knowledge, and regular method of treating the venereal disease; for, on it's first appearance, the disease was entirely new to them, and accompanied with such unusual and malignant symptoms, that instead of administering any helps to the miserable sufferers, they abandoned them as victims of the divine wrath on the unbridled sensuality of the times; and after some time, when they began to make any efforts towards finding out some method of curing this disease, such of them, whose endeavours proved successful studiously kept the medicines, by which they effected the cure, a profound secret;
by

by which means some surgeons accumulated large fortunes.

THE natural consequence was, that no rational method of cure was adopted ; that the common treatment of this disease was chiefly empirical ; and that it was not until towards the beginning of this century, we had any rational method of treating the venereal disease, laid down by medical authors.

FOR a more detailed account, I refer the curious to the elegant edition of *Aphrodisiacus*, published under the inspection of the great Boerhaave, and I will, with all the brevity the subject admits of, lay before the reader the most respectable modern opinions of the different methods, that should be employed in the cure of the venereal disease ; by which he will be the better enabled to judge, how far the present general mode of treatment admits of being improved.

WHOEVER will consult Wiseman, one of the most respectable authors we have in surgery, will find that the symptoms of the

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venereal disease were, in general, much more severe in his time than they are at present ; and, at the same time, that the mode of practice was still much severer. In claps, large and repeated doses of drastic purges, mercurius dulcis, turpeth mineral, were the medicines employed, even in the inflammatory state of the disease, and some of the turpentine tribe were given to complete the cure. In cases, where there was any venereal sore, they were powdered with red precipitate, and dressed with the most acrid and stimulant applications. In a confirmed pox, the hot salivating method of treatment was adopted ; the patient was crammed into a narrow room heated with a stove, if it could be procured ; the admittance of any fresh air was shut out by blankets put up to the door and windows, and a screen surrounded the patient : There he sat, half suffocated in his own hot putrid atmosphere, and was rubbed with mercurial ointment until his tongue generally lolled out, the inside of his mouth all covered over with sloughs, so that a rolled clout must be thrust between his teeth, to keep his chops from closing. In

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In this hideous pickle, he was to lie for twenty-five or thirty days.

It is no wonder that many fell victims to this preposterous mode of treatment, few constitutions being able to endure it, and that every constitution must be infallibly ever after materially injured by it.

OUR English Hippocrates, the great Sydenham, lays it down as an axiom, that as the venereal virus is of a very inflammatory nature, the principal attention in it's cure should be evacuation. In a clap, recourse must be had to strong drastic purges, which must be persisted in for a long time. The first fourteen days of the disease, he purges the patient every day; then every second day; and towards the latter end, twice a week. Should the cure go on but slowly, eight grains of turpeth mineral, given twice or thrice at due intervals, he accounts extremely effectual. Where the patient rejects purgative medicines by the mouth, he substitutes clysters. Balsam of Mecca, or Cyprus turpentine, closes the cure. He thinks injections do much more mischief than service;

vice; and rejects the use of mineral waters, or decoction of the woods, in the cure of a gonorrhea.

As Dr. Sydenham does not account mercury a specific, in the cure of the venereal disease, only, in as much as it is possessed of a superior efficacy to other medicines, in exciting a salivation, therefore, in a confirmed pox, he rejects as not only useless, but highly detrimental, all preparation, as bleeding, purging, or bathing, previous to putting the patient under a salivation: the less the patient's strength is debilitated by those means, the surer he is of success. His whole attention, during the treatment, is to keep up an high degree of salivation, which if the rubbing does not effect, he gives turpeth mineral, or mercurius dulcis; and of the latter medicine he gives a dose once a week, for some months after the cure is apparently effected, for fear of a relapse. He is against carrying off, by purging, any remains of the spitting after the course is over; and, during the whole treatment, allows the patient such light meats as his appetite inclines to.

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I HAVE been often led to imagine that Sydenham, when treating of the venereal disease, wrote more from theory than practice; for otherwise the many fatal consequences, that must inevitably attend such a mode of practice, would have soon convinced this sagacious observer of his error; and the ingenuous candour, that so strongly characterises this great man, would have induced him, for the good of mankind, publicly to confess it.

THE methods of cure in the venereal disease, laid down by Wiseman and Sydenham, were for a long time, with no material variation, followed throughout Europe, both by authors and practitioners; and as it would be an uninteresting prolixity to give a detail of them, I will pass them over to the time, when the celebrated Astruc gave one of the most compleat treatises of the venereal disease, that was ever given of any disorder.

THE cure of a clap he considers at three different periods. In the first, or inflammatory state, he directs us to employ large and repeated bleedings, and thinks

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that

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that the indication for copious bleeding is as strongly pointed out in this case, as in that of a peripneumony, or a dysentery. He orders large quantities of cooling emulsions to be frequently drank, the bowels to be kept free by emollient clysters, opiates if the symptoms are violent, cooling injections, fomentations, pultices &c. to the penis and perineum, and a very slender regimen.

IN the second stage, when the inflammatory symptoms have subsided, after purging two or three times with jallap, diagridium, or calomel, he has recourse to mercurial frictions every second day, to be more immediately employed about the parts of generation and perineum. He continues the same severe regimen.

IN the third stage, he compleats the cure by some of the turpentine, mineral, acidulated, vitriolic, or steel waters, or the common astringents. He reprobates astringent injections.

IN what he terms the dry gonorrhœa, he pushes the antiphlogistic treatment much farther ;

farther; for he even bleeds every fourth hour.

IN the cure of a confirmed pox, he prefers salivation by mercurial frictions. He is extremely detailed in describing the necessary previous preparation: bleeding, purging, warm bathing, medicated broths, and slender regimen. He says it is seldom we can dispense with less than ten baths; more generally he orders twenty. After this course of bathing, the bleeding and purging must be repeated. He then has recourse to the mercurial frictions, which he so directs as to keep up a full regular spitting, from two to three pints in twenty-four hours, which he thinks essentially necessary to continue, until the cure is compleated. He then washes out and purges the patient.

HOWEVER well calculated, in general, the method laid down by this learned author, for the cure of the venereal disease may be; yet I believe it will be readily admitted, that few patients will consent to be repeatedly bled for a clap, as if they had

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had an inflammation of the lungs, or undergo twenty preparatory warm bathings, before they are put under a salivation.

Not long after the celebrated Astruc wrote his elaborate treatise, physicians and surgeons became extremely divided in their opinions, as to the method of administering the mercurial frictions in a confirmed pox. Some of the most respectable followed the plan laid down by Astruc; while the greater number of practitioners, in France, followed the Montpeiller method of extinction: that is, after having previously made the patient take twenty or thirty warm baths, and kept him to a slender humecting regimen, medicated broths &c. the frictions were so administered as not to raise any spitting, and continued so for three or four months, until the venereal virus was totally eradicated.

THE celebrated Van Swieten, in his commentaries on Boerhaave's aphorisms, * in a great measure adopts the opinion of his

his illustrious master, in treating of this disease. In the treatment of a clap, if we except his disapprobation of bleeding, which he thinks is very seldom necessary, we find nothing new ; for he follows the general mode of practice, and effects a cure chiefly by purgatives.

IN a confirmed pox, he, by far prefers a salivation raised by internal mercurials, to one procured by unction ; as the quantity of mercury introduced into the system is much better ascertained, when *mercurius dulcis* three times sublimed, or white precipitate, is made use of, in preference to the rubbing of mercurial ointment ; for the quantity of mercury introduced in this latter method must be uncertain ; besides, as it does not pass out of the system, as readily as saline mercurials, it may accumulate, and be deposited in dangerous quantities in different parts of the body, and be productive of the worst consequences.

BUT, above all methods of curing a confirmed pox, he prefers the so well known solution of corrosive sublimate in brandy,
or

or corn spirits : By this medicine, which is in general use in St. Mark's hospital in Vienna, in the course of eight years, four thousand, eight hundred and eighty persons, labouring under the venereal disease, were perfectly cured, without undergoing any tedious preparation, or having any dangerous symptom intervene.

THE ingenious author * of the parallel of the different methods of treating the venereal disease, is extremely severe in censuring this method of treatment ; and asserts that, from repeated experience, he has found the administration of the solution, in venereal cases, to be very precarious, and by no means productive of the good effects so lavishly promised by the Vienna practitioners.

I presume it will evidently appear, from a general review of the great number of authors, who have written on the venereal disease, that it is not, at present, attended with those malignant and dreadful symptoms,

* Supposed to be Dr. Petit, professor of Anatomy in the king's garden in Paris.

toms, as at it's first introduction into Europe. This, I think, may be justly attributed to the progress that has been made, in the knowledge, and proper method of administering mercury, and it's various preparations; by which the activity of the virus being generally lessened, the disease is not communicated with that degree of virulence; so that it is probable, in some centuries, it may totally disappear, and like the leprosy be known only by description. But, notwithstanding it's symptoms do not make that rapid and fatal progress, we find they did two centuries ago, yet they are fully sufficient miserably to curtail life by slow but sure degrees.

THERE is no disease that has more engaged the attention of practitioners, or which they employ such a variety of different means to combat. There are but few of the profession, that do not think themselves possessed of some secret method, by which they can more safely and expeditiously effect a cure than others.

As the inefficacy of the woods is long since known, mercury, under various
forms

forms, is, at present, accounted by practitioners to be the only specific; but the mode of administering it is what they are divided about. Some administer the uncti-
on, pretty much in the old way, so as to excite an high degree of salivation, for thirty or forty days or more; while others studiously avoid making the mouth sore, by which means a salivation and it's disagreeable consequences are prevented.

VARIOUS are the internal preparations of mercury made use of; the solution, precipitates, calxes, Keyser's pills, and Plenck's gummy solution; besides decoctions of mezereon, lobelia, bardana, sarsaparilla, guaiacum, saffrafras, and China roots; Those have all had their day, and I make no doubt any of them singly may succeed under different circumstances; so that it has been judiciously observed by the great Morgagni *, that many methods of cure formerly made use of have been deserted, and those which had been exploded substituted in their room, in this disease more than in any other; which shews the great diversity of
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* Vide his work *De Causis et Sedibus Morborum*. vol. iii. p. 358.

of opinions about the proper method of treating those cases.

It is an unfortunate circumstance for the progress of physick in general, and really not singular in regard to this disease, that practitioners, who have adopted a mode of treatment, that may, in the course of their practice, prove generally successful, become so prejudiced in it's favour, as to give it the preference to the exclusion of all others. My chief object, in the subsequent cursory observations, is to distinguish, from the different circumstances of infection, and habit of body, how far one method will be preferable to another.

O B S E R-

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

DIFFERENT METHODS

OF TREATING THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

SECTION I.

*A general description of the Venereal Disease,
and it's propagation.*

THE venereal disease may be propagated in various ways. The more general are, when it is hereditarily transmitted from parents to their children; or when it is acquired by impure coition, by suckling diseased children, or by what may be termed simple contact, where two persons lie together, one of them being infected with venereal funguses, pustules, &c. over the surface of the body: This is at present,

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among the poorer sort of people, a very common manner of it's propagation. There are many other ways of contracting this disorder, a detail of which would not be interesting.

AN attentive observer will readily perceive, that in whatever manner the venereal virus is communicated, many circumstances, extremely important to every practitioner to be informed of, will contribute to it's being developed with a more or less degree of virulence.

I PRESUME it will appear pretty evident, that when the venereal disease is hereditarily transmitted, the degree of virulence, with which the child will be infected, must be extremely different, which the consideration of the following circumstances may more immediately serve to point out. Children begot by parents actually poxed should have this disease in the highest degree of infection, as not only the very principles of life, but those of nutrition also, are entirely contaminated; but if either the father or mother be sound, one of them only being poxed, the child will not, of consequence;

sequence, be so highly diseased; and if the parents have not acquired this disease until some time after the conception, the child will be still less infected, and I have seen some instances where children were born under such circumstances undiseased. The easiness of effecting a cure, in those different cases, will depend on the degree of virulence of the disorder *.

WHEN the venereal disease is acquired by coition, there are many circumstances, which contribute to man or woman's receiving the infection in an high degree of virulence. This may be particularly observed in young people, who contract the disease in their first essay: the impetuosity and warmth of their passion, the absorbent state, as I may say, of the parts of generation, and the little attention they pay to washing clean those parts after the act, render them extremely susceptible of all the malignity of the disorder: especially if the party, who communicates it, has a virulent running, chancres, ulcers, &c. in the state,

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* There are many curious instances, relative to this, to be found in Petit's consultations, published by Fabre.

of inflammation, which gives to the virus a superior degree of activity. In those cases, the disease is soon developed with every degree of virulence, and generally makes a rapid progress.

It is not so, in general, with old veterans in amours, or in those that have a natural frigidity, and who have to do with those in whom the disease is partly subdued, or on the decline ; especially if the symptoms on the parts of generation have disappeared, although the virus has passed into the general system. We often find under those circumstances, particularly if the party is careful to wash clean those parts, and make water immediately after the act, there are many instances of men and women cohabiting without being infected ; and when they are, the developement of the virus is generally slow, and unattended with the acute symptoms of this disease. I am convinced from repeated experience, that there are some particular habits of body, and disposition in the parts of generation, which, under the same circumstances, are more readily infected than others*.

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* Vide Note 1.

WHEN the father and mother of a child are both poxed in an high degree, it often happens that the child dies of the disease, in utero, and the woman is brought to bed before her time; or if she goes her full time, and the child be born alive, it carries with it evident marks of the disease. But in cases, where the parents are under cure, or have the disorder on the decline, or not in a virulent degree, children are, under those circumstances, often born without any appearance of being infected; nor is the virus developed in many until some months after, perhaps at the time of dentition or weaning, or often in an anomalous manner, or degenerates into another disease, as the scrophula, rickets, &c. and perhaps to this may be attributed that degradation of our species, so visible in the first families in large cities.

WHEN the venereal disease is contracted by coition, it's first impression is generally on the parts of generation, where it appears either in chancres, ulcers, or a virulent running. Should those symptoms be either neglected or mal-treated, the virus
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passes insensibly into the general system, producing other symptoms, which characterise a confirmed pox. Although this is, in general, the progress of the disease, yet I have seen many instances, where patients have had the symptoms of a confirmed lues, which were never preceded either by clap or chancre.

WHETHER it be a chancre or clap, we often find the first impression of this disease, accompanied with very acute symptoms. In some, the inguinal glands are suddenly attacked, and suppurate to a large extent. In others, the penis, testicles, perineum, are seized with violent inflammations, which terminate in large gangrenous suppurations, attended with most acute pain, fever, inquietude, &c.

BUT the effects of the venereal virus, acting slowly, are really as surprizing as they are opposite; for it sometimes thickens the fluids, producing hard insensible tumours: in others, it destroys the most solid parts by suppuration; and often renders the bones so brittle as to break on the least shock. When it engages the nervous system,

system, it's effects are infinitely various, and there are few chronic diseases it's symptoms do not resemble. Very often, those effects of the virus subside or disappear, for a long time, and then return with redoubled violence.

If the disease is contracted by suckling, or simple contact; in the first case, the breasts are generally first attacked with chaps, copper-coloured, ulcerous spots, and in some time after the throat becomes ulcerated. But in the second case, it really seems to be a sort of distinct kind of venereal affection, that has got among the lower sort of people: there is not a year I do not see several cases of this kind, where the only symptoms are soft funguses, like small mushrooms, dispersed over the surface, insensible to the touch, and only accompanied with a gleety kind of serosity. It is extremely taking, as much so, I believe, as the itch: As those infected have all heavy sweats on them, I have frequently seen it run through whole families.

ON a review of the symptoms attending the venereal disease, we will find but a few
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that immediately characterise it, that is, which may not be attributed to other causes, and in this case circumstances and experience are what we must rely on; for this virus may be so combined with a scrophulous or scorbutic habit of body, as not easily to be distinguished, which renders the administration of mercurials extremely precarious.

THE effects of this disease are extremely various under different circumstances. In general the virus that produces chancres makes a more quick progress, and its symptoms are more characterised than those that are the consequence of a clap; for in the first cases, buboes soon appear in the groin, which, if neglected, are succeeded by venereal pustules, copper-coloured spots, ulcerations of the tonsils, attended with nocturnal pains in the limbs, watchings, exostosis, caries, anchylosis, &c. those frequently succeed each other rapidly.

THOSE poxes succeeding to claps are not, in general, accompanied with such decisive symptoms of the disease, nor do they so soon appear: sometimes they are limited

to a callous fistulous ulcer in perineo, schyrrous prostate; or often to such symptoms as hardly to be deemed venereal, as pains in the articulations and apponeurosis, resembling those of the rheumatism, or irregular gout, obstinate ophthalmies, enlargement of the glands, vertigoes, quartan fevers, different diseases of the breast and belly, atrophy, and an infinite number of other complaints, which we might attribute rather to any other cause than venereal, except from concurring circumstances.

THERE is a striking difference in the progress of poxes succeeding chancres and claps, nor is there less in the success that attends our treatment; for, in the first case, the worst symptoms vanish, with a surprizing rapidity, by administering mercurials; while poxes succeeding suppressed or ill-managed claps, obstinately resist the most judicious mode.

IN this general description of the effects produced by the venereal virus in the human body, I presume it will obviously appear, that it is the highest absurdity to fix
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one general method of curing a disease, the symptoms of which so much depend on the difference of habit of body and constitution of the patient, and a variety of other circumstances. How frequently do we experience the most virulent symptoms of this disease subdued by even a rude course of mercurials, while symptoms of a far milder nature resist every judicious mode of treatment? The frequent combinations of this virus with various other morbid affections, often put the practitioner to the utmost test of both his experience and abilities.

HAVING premised this general view of the various symptoms attendant on this filthy disorder, we are naturally led, in the subsequent pages, to consider each in particular.

S E C T.

S E C T. II.

Of a clap and the method of curing it.

THE first symptoms of a clap are generally a kind of titillation and sense of heat along the uretra, a few days after impure coition. To this titillation succeed pain and scalding in making water, particularly about the frenum or fossa navicularis. The inflammation soon extends down the uretra, the glans penis becomes enlarged and red, the uretra tense, and the perineum often swelled and painful, with a constant desire and difficulty of making water, involuntary erections, particularly during the night, extremely fatiguing to the patient, as the inflammation of the parts opposes the complete erection. In women the symptoms generally run less high, particularly if the disease be seated only in the sebaceous glands of the vagina, and not in the lacunæ of the uretra. Those symptoms are soon attended with a purulent running, more or less abundant: the quantity, colour, and consistence, will
much

much depend on the degree of inflammation.

It has been advanced by respectable authors*, that this running proceeds from an ulceration in the cells of the uretra, Cowper's glands, prostate, vesiculæ feminales, which inclined them to distinguish so many different species of gonorrhœas; but I am strongly of opinion that those parts are seldom ulcerated, or inflamed, to any great degree; for on dissecting those that died actually clapped, I could never find that either Cowper's glands, the prostate, or vesiculæ feminales, were affected in the manner which those authors describe: The disease seemed to me to consist in an abrasion of the natural mucus of the uretra, the whole tract of which appeared more or less red, or highly excoriated; the lacunæ of the mucous glands, or canaliculi, seemed enlarged from their being inflamed and slightly ulcerated†.

FROM

* Vide particularly Astruc, Van Swieten, Fordyce.

† This I particularly observed on the dissection of a man, who was hanged, and who had actually a clap on him, under which he had laboured, as I was informed, for three months before.

FROM those considerations, I am inclined to think, that the virulent running of a clap is nothing more than an encreased secretion of the mucus, which is naturally secreted by the glands of the uretra, and which is transmitted through the lacunæ or canaliculi, for the purpose of defending the passage from the acrimony of the urine. When the venereal virus fixes on those glands, it excites them, by irritation, to a greater secretion of mucus, which, from the inflammation they are affected with, becomes purulent.

THE duration of the inflammatory stage of this disease will much depend on the activity of the virus, and the mode of treatment the practitioner adopts. On the subsiding of the heat, pain, swelling &c. the running becomes more abundant; changes from the greenish yellow colour, which it had during the inflammatory period, to a cream colour, turns white, becomes viscous or ropy, and diminishes gradually until a perfect cure ensues.

THIS general progress of the disease is but too frequently interrupted from the running

running being prematurely stopped, occasioning a swelling of one or both testicles, inflammations of the glands of the groin, tonsils &c, and infecting the general mass of humours. If the running should return, and become again abundant, we commonly have less difficulty in subduing those consequences of it's being suppressed, and with a proper treatment the cure succeeds.

THE difference of claps depends, in a great measure, on the degree of inflammation with which the mucous membrane of the uretra is affected. When the inflammation is slight, the running is generally very trifling; and when it is on the opposite extremity, or of the erisipelatous kind, the running is thin, acrid, and highly virulent. It sometimes happens the sebaceous glands behind the corona glandis are affected; and we sometimes find the running will continue, from a relaxation of the lacunæ, for a long time, notwithstanding every endeavour to effect a cure.

WHEN a clap runs abundantly, and goes regularly through the different periods already

already pointed out, it is seldom or ever that any symptoms of a pox succeed in consequence.

THERE is one circumstance generally attending claps, which may appear rather paradoxical, but which experience daily shews us to be true, which is, that those claps attended, in the beginning, with a smart degree of inflammation are very often easier cured, than those where the degree of inflammation is but trifling. Women, in whom the inflammatory symptoms seldom run high, are more difficult to cure than men: the various menstrual obstructions, fluor albus &c. to which they are liable, often cause the best mode of treatment for a long time to prove ineffectual.

To claps attended with great inflammation, severe strangury, and but little running, poxes frequently succeed, except the utmost attention be paid to the proper method of treatment. In claps, where the running has been prematurely suppressed, except it be brought on again, a pox will inevitably be the consequence.

RUNNINGS kept up for a long time, by a relaxation in the canaliculi of the uretra, become in a manner habitual, and although they prove extremely obstinate, yet they seldom are productive of any pocky symptoms.

WHEN the virus affects the sebaceous glands behind the corona glandis, it is very apt to occasion ulcerations, buboes, and a confirmed lues.

AUTHORS are extremely diffuse in their prescriptions for the cure of a clap; but as many of them, however well calculated they may be for the purpose, either will not or cannot be complied with by the generality of patients, they might, with equal advantage to practitioners, be entirely suppressed.

FROM what we have already observed, I presume it will evidently appear, that, when the venereal virus fixes on the mucous membrane of the uretra, and there excites an abundant secretion of purulent mucus, this running will much conduce to the safe expulsion of the infection.

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We should therefore, in our curative intention, totally reject every means that might tend to suppress it.

THE first thing, which presents itself to our attention, is the heat, difficulty and pain, the patient feels in making water; which will be a just criterion of the degree of inflammation the parts engaged actually labour under. To oppose the disease at this period, most authors recommend bleeding, emollient clysters, mucilaginous decoctions, warm baths, severe regimen, and a paregoric in case of inquietude.

AND first, as to bleeding, I must confess, that except some general inflammatory symptoms attended the beginning of a clap, I never experienced any good effects arise from repeated bleeding, when they were only local. I think therefore we may with every degree of safety dispense with the use of the lancet.

It is extremely necessary the patient should drink, through the day, a proper quantity of a light cooling emulsion, as it

not only obtunds the acrimony of the urine, but by encreasing the quantity of it, the bladder is more frequently solicted to discharge it's contents ; which clears the uretra, more effectually than any injection, of the purulent mucus that is constantly dripping from the lacunæ.

As to the frequent repetition of emollient clysters, however proper they may be, there are but few patients will submit to them, and the antiphlogistic purges may be substituted with superior advantage. The warm bath is also another injunction that few will comply with, and which local bathing may answer our intention full as well.

WHATEVER may be advanced in favour of the use of opiates, in the inflammatory stage of this disease, I never ordered them that I did not find the patients much worse, after the temporary relief they procured them*.

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* In the Levant, opium is used as an incentive to venery, and I never gave it to patients, labouring under a cordee, that it did not encrease the complaint ; which, in some measure, shews that it possesses the quality attributed to it by the Turks.

IN the second period of this disease, when the inflammatory symptoms have subsided, a copious running has come on, and the patient feels little uneasiness in making water, we should be extremely cautious not to administer any medicines, that may prematurely check the running, or make use of any astringent injections, which often pucker up the mucous membrane of the uretra, and lay the foundation of disagreeable strictures in the passage.

WE frequently find, where the patient regularly conforms to the directions laid down, for the removal of the symptoms in the first period, through the course of the second, if it be a simple clap, that the running gradually diminishes and becomes ropy, and the heat and pain in making water totally vanish; so that the disease may be said to be in the third stage, where nothing will be wanting to complete the cure, but to restore the excretories to their former elasticity, which a few rabarbarite purges, and a course of tonics will safely effect.

THOSE are the general intentions we should have in the cure of a simple clap, but which every practitioner will vary according to different circumstances: But there are some particular incidents which it is extremely requisite to have in view during the cure, and which we will endeavour at present to point out.

IN a disease like a clap, where an unusual continuance of the inflammation in the parts engaged may be attended with very disagreeable consequences, and easily renewed or exasperated, we cannot be too exact in our attention to the patient's regimen: all high seasoned dishes, wine and women, should most certainly be prohibited; but a reasonable quantity of any light meats may be allowed; all violent exercise, particularly riding, dancing and fencing, ought certainly be avoided; the testicles should be supported by a suspensory.

IN order to obtund the acrimony of the urine, and to obviate the effects it would otherwise produce, in passing through the inflamed or excoriated uretra, it will be proper

proper the patient should drink from two to three pints a day of barley water, light linseed tea, or syrrop of capillaire and water, to every draught of which may be added a paper of cooling powders, composed of gum arabic, nitre, and as much sugar as will render them agreeable. But in weak lax constitutions, we should be cautious not to enforce the drinking too large quantities of the emollient decoctions generally prescribed; as there are few patients whose stomachs will bear it for any continuance, or if they do, it injures very much the tonus of this viscus. This is more particularly to be observed in women, especially if they are lately brought to bed.

DURING the inflammatory period of a clap, it will be necessary that the patient's bowels be kept free, so as to procure three or four motions every day. For this purpose, I would prefer by much any of the neutral salts, if the patients stomach will bear them: an ounce of rochelle salts, and with it the same quantity of manna, if more agreeable, dissolved in a naggin or
half

half a pint of Francis-street spa water*, is a very eligible purge, particularly if the patient drinks the Spa during it's operation. I have found no kind of physick so highly antiphlogistic. I have frequently by giving it in this manner, for only a week together, subdued the inflammatory symptoms, and brought the disease to the second period.

BUT as there are many patients who cannot take salts, for those pills made up of jallap and salpolychrest will answer the intention extremely well, or for the more delicate a spoonful of castor oil. All resinous purges should be entirely rejected in this period of the disease: the operation of most of them is by much too severe, and the tenesmus that they occasion often encreases the symptoms which they are given to subdue.

THE patient should frequently, through the day, suspend his penis in a tumbler filled

* A spa in this city, nearly approaching the Epsom and Scarborough waters in it's purgative qualities.

filled with linseed-tea gently warm, and if the glans and inside of the prepuce be excoriated, some of the linseed-tea, mixed with an equal quantity of Goulard's vegetal water, may be frequently injected between the prepuce and the glans.

By prosecuting this antiphlogistic course eight, ten, or twelve days, the heat, pain, troublesome erections and frequent desire of making water, generally subside, and any swelling of the glans, &c. disappear; the running, although more abundant, is generally thicker, whiter, and not so acrid.

IN this second period of the disease, should we administer the mercurial frictions in Astruc's method, which is recommended by Dr. Fordyce, we frequently will unexpectedly bring on a disagreeable spitting; and I have seen instances where the patient has been thrown into an high salivation, although the frictions were very prudently managed. If we should have recourse to the more active saline mercurials, we run a great risk of either prematurely

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rely suppressing the running, or renewing the inflammatory symptoms.

WHAT I have experienced most effectual, in securely abridging the cure very much, is giving the mercurial gummy pill * ; at the same time, I order the patient to throw up the uretra, three times a day, the mercurial gum arabic solution. Previous to the patient's injecting, he should make water, and retain the injection for some time in the uretra.

WE need be under no apprehension of prematurely suppressing the running, or laying the foundation of callosities or strictures in the uretra, by using this injection ; it possesses no astringent or puckering quality, but specifically, as it were, heals any
excoriation

* The formula of this pill is as follows : Quick silver one drachm, gum arabic finely powdered, two drachms ; rub them extremely well together in a mortar, adding from time to time so much water as will serve to convert the whole into a mucilage, in which all the mercurial globules should be exactly extinguished ; make them into thirty-six pills with powder of liquorish ; two to be taken night and morning. The solution is made by adding to the mucilage gradually a pint of barley water.

excoriation, with which the mucous membrane of the uretra may be affected.

By this method, the running gradually decreases, becomes viscid and ropy; and all the inflammatory symptoms having subsided for some time, in this third period, I generally join rhubarb to the mercurial pill: its purgative and tonic qualities will much contribute to restore to the lacunæ their former constrictive powers, and gradually to complete the cure. During the course of the pills and injections, should the patient's mouth become sore, which is seldom the case, the rochelle salts and spa-water soon remove this effect.

If the pills should not prove gently laxative, during the above treatment, it will be necessary to procure this effect, every third or fourth day, by any of the laxatives already directed. It is seldom the patient is costive under their influence, but if he should, it must be prevented.

In relaxed patients, particularly women, a gleet often proves extremely obstinate, and resists every mode of treatment for a
long

long time. In those cases, a course of sea-bathing, or the cold bath, chalybate-waters, and tonic medicines, will at last, if steadily persevered in, with a suitable regimen, avoiding excessive venery, &c. effect a cure. Should a gleet or running be kept up by an ulcer in any part of the uretra, we must have recourse to the use of the bougie.

FROM continued experience, I do presume that this method of treating a clap will be found, in general, by those who may adopt it, a safe and effectual method of curing this disease. I know that many cases may occur in which another method, as the purging, or that by mercurial frictions, may have a far superior degree of success, but this is the fate of all general methods, however well they may be calculated and laid down for the removal of any disease, and surely cannot with any degree of propriety, be imputed to the present as a defect.

S E C T. III.

Of the inflation of the penis, phymosis and paraphymosis.

THERE are some symptoms attendant on, or that succeed in consequence of claps, which it will be extremely necessary we should consider separately. The inflation of the penis is the first that claims our attention.

It frequently occurs in the beginning of a virulent clap, that the penis becomes, rather suddenly, prodigiously inflated. This generally arises from the glans, and inside of the prepuce, being here and there affected with little painful ulcers, from which there proceeds a most acrid discharge, which not having a free and constant exit, some part of it always rests between the prepuce and the glans, and acquires an high degree of virulence; and by the constant irritation it occasions, the lax-integuments of the penis are soon seized with, what may with propriety

propriety be termed, an inflammatory oedema, which is often attended, particularly in young plethoric men, with a smart fever, inquietude, constant pain and want of rest; the penis often becomes frightfully distorted, and the inside of the prepuce and surface of the glans become sloughy, from which proceeds a most fetid ichorous discharge: it often happens that a part, or the whole of the prepuce, is cast off in gangrenous flakes, or sloughs away. Although those appearances are often alarming, yet I never saw them attended with any fatal consequences.

VAN SWIETEN, from a presumption that the corpora cavernosa penis are the chief seat of the inflammation, and apprehensive lest, by any delay, a gangrene should soon succeed, to obviate this event, orders large and repeated bleedings, even opening the vein that runs on the back of the penis, profuse purgings, fomentations, pultices, &c. Nothing but experience would induce me to dissent from so great an authority; and here, from all the cases of this sort I have ever seen, I must confess I never saw one where the inflammation was, in the beginning

ginning, seated in the corpora cavernosa penis, the lax teguments of the penis being the only parts engaged ; but in the progress of the disease, where a putrid suppuration has taken place, the corpora cavernosa may become affected.

WHEN we have reason to apprehend, from the appearance of those small ulcers on the inside of the prepuce, or surface of the glans, that an inflation of the penis may be the consequence, we cannot be too attentive to obviate this event, by ordering the patient frequently to throw up the linseed tea, and vegetal water, with a seringe between the prepuce and glans ; and if the prepuce can be drawn back, pledgits of fine lint, dipped in the vegetal water, should be interposed between it and the glans, and a thick compress, wrung out of the same, should be wrapped round the penis, and occasionally renewed. In this case, it will be particularly necessary to give some internal mercurials, which may dispose those little ulcers to heal, without suppressing any running that may be from the uretra. I have frequently had my intentions for this purpose fulfilled by ordering Huxham's Ethiops antimo-

antimonialis, occasionally interposing the rochelle salts and spa water.

BUT should the penis notwithstanding become inflated, yet, in any degree of it, we cannot consider it as a real inflammatory distension; for both it's appearances and event shew it to be of the oedematous kind. I never experienced any superior advantage from a profuse course of evacuations: I believe that they ought to be much restricted.

WHERE this accident happens to young plethoric men, the first days of a clap, and particularly if attended with a hot dry skin, rapid pulse, inquietude, watchings, &c. I think, where there are such general inflammatory symptoms, it will be highly necessary to have recourse to bleeding, and the antiphlogistics, previous to administering any mercurials, which should never be ordered in an high degree of inflammatory diathesis. The penis should be constantly fomented with the common fomentation, to every two quarts of which, two ounces of Goulard's extract may be added. A
compress

compreſs wrung out of the fomentation will, with equal advantage, ſupply the place of a pultice, which is not ſo eaſily kept on. The patient ſhould have three or four ſtools every day, which may be advantageouſly procured by ſalts and ſpa-water. A ſaline julep with ſome antimonial wine may be given through the day ; and where the urgency of the ſymptoms precludes all ſleep, a paregoric at night. We ſhould be aware of all local mercurial applications : I have often ſeen mercurial ointment, rubbed on the part, exaſperate amazingly every ſymptom.

By thoſe means ſhould the general inflammatory ſymptoms ſubſide, and the pain and ſwelling of the penis conſiderably leſſen, in this caſe, notwithſtanding a retraction of the prepuce may for a conſiderable time become impoſſible, and that we have every reaſon to imagine the ſurface of the glans and inſide of the prepuce are ulcerated, yet we ſhould not by any means be precipitate in performing the operation of the phymofis ; as by frequent injections of the linſeed-tea and vegetal water, no matter
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can rest between those parts ; and by this means and a course of mercurial frictions, or mercurial pills, they are soon disposed to heal, and the patient evades undergoing both a painful and disagreeable operation.

BUT if our endeavours should not succeed, and that a putrid suppuration should take place, the glans be invaded with deep sloughy ulcers, and a sort of gangrenous suppuration runs up the inside of the prepuce and teguments of the penis, in this case, it will be highly necessary that, by a division of the prepuce, we uncover those ulcers, by which means we may stop the progress of the disease.

FOR this purpose, you take a small crooked bistory, on the point of which you stick a round bit of white wax ; having drawn up the prepuce, introduce the bistory on the flat between it and the glans ; when the bistory has got as high as the corona glandis, turn the edge upward, pierce the prepuce, and, by bringing the knife to you, complete the operation. Pledgits spread with some soft ointment must be carefully interposed between the parts, the fomen-

tations be continued, and, if a very putrid sloughy disposition prevails, a pultice of oat-meal boiled up with porter may be advantageously applied. The bark should be given, and when the sloughs fall off, recourse must be had to the mercurials already mentioned. But I must give the young practitioner one caution, which is, never to dress venereal sores, when in any inflammatory state, with mercurial ointment; for by it the erithism of the part is encreased, and the sore always extended, sometimes with fatal consequences*.

It frequently happens that the prepuce, being drawn behind the corona glandis, cannot be brought forward: an inflammation succeeds, the penis becomes tumid, and the prepuce seems to form a tight ligature on the glans; the folded back prepuce often forms about the frenum a very large tumour, which is generally pellucid, from it's being distended with lymph. The general symptoms of inflammation usually attend this complaint; but although authors mention a retention of urine, as a frequent

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* Vide Note 11.

occurrence, I must own I never met with it.

By prosecuting the antiphlogistic method, laid down for the cure of the phymosis, this complaint generally gives way without any operation. Whatever may be advanced in favour of the operation of the paraphymosis, which, by the dividing the folds of the inflamed prepuce, removes the stricture on the glans, I never saw it attended with advantage to the patient; but on the contrary, I have seen it precipitate the parts into a gangrenous sloughy supuration.

As to the tumour that is formed about the frenum, which is an accumulation of lymph, the distension it causes may be removed, without any material pain, by a couple of small incisions made each side of the frenum with a lancet. It frequently happens, that we find the tumour next day as large as before the incisions were made; but a suppuration soon succeeds, which tends more immediately to relax the parts. The prepuce often remains ever after in this folded state, forming, what
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the French call, a bourlet, round the glans. Stuping and pulticing with hemlock I have often found very effectual in this case.

THE method laid down in the phymosis, as to topical applications and the administration of mercurials, will fulfil every indication that may present itself through the progress of this complaint; but I have frequently obviated, or abridged, many of the most painful consequences in either case, by giving in the very beginning, after some general evacuations, proportioned to the acuteness of the symptoms and constitution of the patient, a puke of turpeth mineral, and repeating it twice or thrice at due intervals; but this requires great prudence in the administration, and should never be given to patients who have weak lungs.

S E C T. IV.

Of the swelled Testicle.

IT frequently happens, more particularly during the second period of a clap, either from some irregularities committed by the patient, from over-purging, or from the use of astringent injections, or turpentine medicines, that the running is prematurely diminished or totally suppressed, and a heaviness, heat, and swelling of one or both testicles succeed, attended with a considerable degree of pain, which stretches along the spermatic chord. It is the epididymis that is generally first attacked, but soon after the entire testicle insensibly becomes engaged. Although inflammations of the testicles may terminate differently, yet resolution is what more generally happens, but not so perfect; as the epididymis always remains, in some degree, hard, scirrhus and knotty.

A SWELLED testicle, the consequence of a clap, is ever a disagreeable accident : as a local complaint, it is often not only painful, but it's resolution extremely tedious, and the running, being suppressed, may insensibly pass into and infect the general mass of humours, from whence ulcerated tonsils, and other pocky symptoms, but too frequently arise.

OUR chief object in the treatment of a swelled testicle should be it's speedy resolution ; and as the premature suppression of the running is the more general cause of this complaint, we therefore should neglect no means that may contribute to promote a return of it ; but this we cannot effect while an high degree of inflammation prevails, therefore our first attention should be directed to oppose it's farther progress, and take off it's most painful effects.

FOR this purpose, in young plethoric men, where the pain and general inflammatory symptoms run high, it will be necessary the patient should be let blood : the quantity and repetition will depend on the
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the acuteness of the symptoms, but I seldom find it necessary to repeat it: the bowels should be kept free with the antiphlogistic purge already mentioned, and a light cooling emulsion ordered to be plentifully drank; the patient should be confined to bed, and kept to a very slender regimen.

IN the topical applications, we should carefully avoid those that are greasy or oily, such as the bread and milk pultice, to which is added a quantity of mercurial ointment: This pultice keeps up an erithism in the parts, hinders the freedom of transpiration by stopping the pores, and often determines to suppuration, or at least retards resolution. The two most eligible applications I have experienced are, the common fomentation, with Goulard's extract, already mentioned; and a pultice of barley-meal made with the vegetal water: with the first, the testicle should be frequently fomented, and the pultice occasionally renewed, and a well made bag-truss should support it.

ON the subsiding of the inflammatory symptoms, I have experienced great advantage, both in bringing on the running, and speedily dispersing any remaining swelling, by giving pills, combined of soap, mercurial pill and extract. *cicutæ*. The testicle may, at the same time, be fomented with a decoction of the hemlock leaves, and a pultice of the same substituted. By steadily pursuing this method, I have seen very alarming swellings of the testicles so happily disappear, as to leave but very little vestige of any disease behind them.

BUT should so unfortunate an event as a suppuration take place, we should be carefull not to be too precipitate in giving exit to the matter, previous to any disagreeable hardness being in some measure softened, and that the fluctuation appears so evident as not to be mistaken, an accident I have more than once known to happen to experienced surgeons. In making an incision in so delicate a part, we should be very circumspect, and there will seldom be occasion, nor is it safe, to extend it much ; what will permit the free exit of the matter, and the easy application of dressings,

dressings, will be fully sufficient. Large incisions in all detached glands, whose vessels are lax and liable to dilate, are productive of ill-conditioned funguses.

BUT frequently the matter is confined to the teguments, and the testicle is not engaged; this we should be extremely attentive to distinguish. If in the progress of the suppuration, the tunica vaginalis slough off, and the testicle become bare, the suppuration may affect the albuginea, and end in a total destruction of the texture of the testicle.

IN the dressing we should avoid all greasy stimulant applications, or to be too solicitous to remove any fibrous threads that may present themselves in the discharge; as when the testicle is stripped of any part of the albuginea, which confines those spermatic fibres, as I may say, they unravel and are cast off, so as at last to leave nothing of the testicle but the epididymis. By dressing with dry lint, a suitable pressure, avoiding pulling or wiping them away with the discharge, this may sometimes be prevented.

IN all schyrrous testicles, the consequence of venereal affections, the utmost circumspection is necessary previous to proceeding to any operation; for by a prudent administration of mercurial frictions &c. testicles that had been condemned to extirpation, have been happily saved, and a cure effected.

S E C T. V.

Of buboes.

BUBOES frequently arise from the running of a clap being too suddenly either checked or stopped, particularly where the glans or prepuce are ulcerated: they are seldom the first symptoms of a venereal infection.

THOSE buboes that arise soon after the first appearance of the infection, particularly if the patient be young and otherwise healthy, are generally of the inflammatory kind, and determine soon to suppuration;

ration ; but those that arise at the latter end of the disease, or in some time after a cure has been apparently effected, if the patient be of a cold inert habit of body, we find those buboes generally attended with little pain, but appear cold and indolent, and are as hard to bring to a complete suppuration as to an entire resolution.

IN whatever light we consider buboes, either as proceeding from the absorption of matter from some virulent ulcers round the glans, which is a frequent occurrence, or from a premature suppression of a venereal running, in every event, if they can be brought to a laudable suppuration, it will much facilitate the easy expulsion of the virus, and abridge the cure.

THE inflammatory buboes naturally tend to suppuration, and require nothing more than the application of the flaxseed pultice, to forward this effect with more ease to the patient. When the suppuration is completed, all disagreeable hardness melted down, and the skin thinned, so as to render the fluctuation apparent,

rent, we may safely give exit to the matter.

FOR this purpose, a simple aperture with a lancet, proportioned to the extent of the tumour, will be fully sufficient. It is both a painful and unnecessary method which some surgeons have of removing an oval piece of the integuments, by which is formed a large sore in a very irritable part; this should never be practised but in cases where the cap of the tumour is so far extenuated as to appear bluish; in that case there will be a necessity for removing it. The subsequent dressings should not materially differ from those employed after the opening of other abscesses; those that are light and easy being always the most eligible.

BUT in buboes that are of a cold and indolent kind, it will often require both patience and time to bring them to suppuration; warm maturing pultices, dry frictions, cupping, and even blistering, have been employed in order to forward the suppuration. Very often, when they are large, matter forms in different points
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of the tumour, but generally very deep: In those cases, I have often, with advantage, applied a small caustic over the points wherein the suppuration was most forward; I have frequently seen the discharge after gradually melt down very considerable buboes of this kind.

IN both cases, when the sores begin to clear, it will be proper to administer the mercurial frictions; but using only a drachm of ointment at each friction, so as not to endanger any considerable spitting. The decoction of sarsaparilla may be given at the same time.

IN those cases, I have always found, particularly in large hard buboes*, that rubbing the leg of the affected side, so as to make the mercury more immediately pass through them, has contributed very much to softening and dispersing all those disagreeable

* It is a singular practice, and by no means to be followed, which Mr. Freke recommends in those cases, that of dividing the largest of the inguinal glands into the body of it with his knife, and with his fingers or spatula turning out their insides, or destroying them with escharotics. Vide his Art of Healing. p. 200.

disagreeable hardneſſes. I have ſeen a great number of caſes, in which this method of treatment has ſucceeded extremely well, and effected a perfect cure without confining the patient within doors, except in cold or wet weather.

S E C T. VI.

Of the venereal ſtrangury.

OF the variety of complaints, to which thoſe are expoſed, who have had repeated and long continued claps, there is not one more to be dreaded than an habitual ſtrangury. The imminent danger of an entire retention of urine, that conſtantly attends this diſeaſe, the frequent deſire the patient feels, and the painful endeavours he is obliged to exert, in order to expel his urine, render life as precarious as it muſt be miſerable.

IT ſeldom happens that this diſeaſe immediately ſucceeds a clap: it more frequently

quently occurs that the patient feels no pressing symptoms of a strangury for some months, or even years, after he has, to all appearance, been perfectly cured.

THERE are but very few so attentive in making water as to take notice of, or be any way alarmed, although they should not urine in as full a stream as they were used to do; so that the disease is of some time standing before the patient finds any inconvenience from it, or applies for advice; which he generally does not until, from the progress of this complaint, he perceives that he is both a longer time, more frequently sollicitated, and obliged to use greater efforts, in making water than usual.

THE several affections of the uretra, that arise in consequence of repeated claps, and oppose the free evacuation of the urine, may be distinguished as follows. Carnosities or caruncles. Constrictions in different parts of the uretra, from the callous cicatrices of former ulcers. Enlargement of the uretral glands, that serve to separate the mucus, generally attended with

with a varicous state of the vessels. Cal-
lous or fungous ulcers seated about the
excretory ducts of the prostate gland, ves-
ficulæ seminales, and uretal glands. An
enlargement of the veru montanum. An
enlargement of the prostate gland.

WHEN we consider how few opportu-
nities present themselves of demonstrative-
ly ascertaining the actual existence of those
various affections of the uretra, a point
which can only be obtained by dissection,
we will not be surprized that practitioners
differ very much in opinion as to the ex-
istence or frequency of some of those ob-
stacles.

CARNOSITIES or caruncles in the uretra
were formerly looked on as the only obsta-
cle that opposed the free expulsion of the
urine, and the whole curative indication
was to consume them by catheterics.

THE celebrated Morgagni, whose au-
thority is unquestionable in all cases rela-
tive to the investigation of disorders by dis-
section, asserts, that notwithstanding the
great

great number of uretras he dissected, he never made but one certain observation of a fleshy excrescence in the uretra; but he has many of cicatrices and coarctations, and this one carnosity or excrescence was produced by a thin cicatrix.

PETIT, to whom we are indebted for so many improvements in surgery, has also, by dissection of no less than thirty of those suspected to have had carnosities, attentively examined whether those carnosities actually did exist; but he avers he never found the least appearance of this disease in any of them, but in one; and which surrounded a fistulous hole near the veru montanum, and communicated with four or five exterior fistulous apertures in the perineum. He considers the enlargement of the prostate gland as the more frequent cause of a venereal strangury†.

It would seem from the researches of so respectable enquirers, that there seldom or

* Vid his Work de Causis et Sedibus Morborum. p. 530.

† Vide his posthumous Works. Vol. III. p. 26.

or ever are caruncles formed in the uretra; but Van Swieten, from the case of a young man, whom he twice successfully cured of a clap, and a caruncle that grew out of the orifice of the uretra, is inclined to believe they may grow further down†.

It has frequently occurred to me to see cases, where small long red warts, divided somewhat like a raspberry, lay in the orifice of the uretra, and which seemed to take root a little way within it; and some of the most obstinate poxes I ever saw were attended by those appearances. That those may have root lower down in the uretra, I believe cannot well be denied, but dissection shews that it seldom happens.

THE enlargement of the small glands that separate the uretral mucus, and a varicous disposition of the vessels, strictures of the uretra, the effect of a cicatrices, ulcerations about the veru montanum, with a schyrrus of the prostate, I have found to be the most frequent causes of a venereal strangury.

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† Commentaries on Boerhaave. Vol. V.

WHEN the venereal virus fixes on the mucous membrane of the uretra, it excites a general erithism throughout it's whole tragit, the mucous glands become enlarged, and secrete a preternatural quantity of mucus, which is poured into the passage by the lacunæ or canaliculi, and becomes purulent from the state of inflammation and excoriation, or superficial ulceration, with which the lacunæ are affected. The running continues as long as the virus retains it's stimulating property; but when this is subdued, the erithism subsides, the inflammatory symptoms gradually disappear, the mucous glands lessen to their natural size, the running at last becomes mucous, and soon after totally disappears.

BUT should the running be imprudently suppressed, previous to the entire evacuation of the virus, and subsiding of all enlargments, that may have taken place in the mucous glands of the uretra, some of those will remain still larger than what is natural,

natural, with a disposition readily to become more so, and be farther productive of a derangement in the freedom of circulation in the spongy substance of the uretra, which may become varicous and enlarged in different places, and an habitual strangury will infallibly succeed.

THAT this is the general cause of venereal stranguries, I do presume, will be found both by experience and dissection; for we find that the patients, who labour under this complaint, are either such as have had frequent and long continued claps, or such as have been injudiciously treated, and the running too soon suppressed, and of consequence some of the mucous glands have remained morbidly enlarged.

ALL practitioners are agreed that our success, in the cure of this complaint, depends much on our exciting an abundant discharge of purulent mucus by the use of bougies, with as little irritation as possible, throughout the mucous membrane of the uretra; by which means all those glands, that remained hard and enlarged,

become softened, and are solicited to perform their usual functions; their excretories become free and open, and readily transmit the secreted mucus; they lessen to their natural size, and the varicous enlargements of the spongy substance of the uretra disappear, and a cure is effected. This success we more frequently experience when the prostate gland is not engaged, which is but too frequently the case; for in many dissections I have made, where the uretra had been affected, I never found one, in which the prostate gland was not more or less enlarged.

THERE is no disease that requires, in the surgeon, a more patient attention to overcome, than a venereal stranguy. Great discernment is often required in order to enable the practitioner to judge, whether the complaint is merely local, and the patient free of the venereal virus, and to what kind of obstacle we are to impute the stranguy.

WE have already observed the patient does not generally apply for advice, until
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the disease itself is of some time standing, and often some months, or years, after he has been apparently cured of a clap. If, a few months after being treated for a clap, he should perceive a diminution in the stream of his urine, that it is forked, or twisted like a thread, or that he is obliged to exert unusual force to expel it, which he seldom can do completely, so that his bladder not being entirely emptied, he is obliged more frequently to make water, which, in the progress of the complaint, he can only effect in an interrupted manner, or drop by drop, we may justly consider him to be exposed to the imminent danger of a total retention of urine; particularly if the patient commit any irregularity.

As all those strangueries, particularly those that appear so immediately after a clap, are caused by an injudicious mode of treatment, and the premature suppression of the venereal running; notwithstanding that the patient has no other complaint of the infection, yet there is a strong presumption that he is not perfectly clear of it.

IF he should have no gleet purulent running appear, either before or after making water, or forenefs along the uretra, we have no reason to expect any ulcerations in the paffage: caruncles and fungufes are feldom met with; nor can we well fuppofe, that thofe obftacles would oppofe fo great a refiftance to the repeated efforts of the patient in order to make water. The proftate gland, and thofe of the uretra, will be found the moft frequent obftacles.

IN order to afcertain, as much as poffible, the ftate of the proftate, we muft carefully introduce a finger in ano, where an enlargement of any moment of this gland will be very fenfible to the touch; but if we find none, and that the patient notwithstanding cannot expell the laft drop of his urine completely, but that it dribbles from him; if in coition the femen is not ejected with a proper degree of force, but either runs off gradually on the penis becoming flaccid, or being thrown back into the bladder, it comes off after making water, there is a ftrong prefumption
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the veru montanum, and even the postate of that side, is enlarged, and that the excretories of the vefsiculæ feminales are affected. But we will have a greater degree of certainty of this being the case, if upon introducing a bougie or catheter, we find the uretra free until we come to the prostate, where, from the constriction of this part of the uretra, there will be great difficulty to pass this last into the bladder; although we should by introducing a finger in ano, and gently lowering at the same time the hand that holds the catheter, raise the other end, so as to facilitate it's entrance into the bladder. Those different circumstances plainly point out to us the seat of the disease.

BUT cases frequently occur where the patient labours under a strangury, yet has not those symptoms, which more immediately characterize a disease of the prostate, veru montanum, or vefsiculæ feminales; as no enlargement of the prostate can be felt in ano, and the patient finds no defect in the ejaculation of the semen, and is capable of procreation. Here we have every
reason

reason to imagine, that it is the enlargement of some of the uretral glands, and the spongy substance of the uretra become varicous, that form the strictures in different parts of the uretra, and which, on introducing a bougie, we may be fully convinced of; yet, even in those cases, I always suspect the prostate to be more or less diseased.

It is not so easy to ascertain whether the patient is totally free of the venereal virus. Much information will be obtained from the general state of the patient's health. If he has had no venereal symptom for some years, and if married, that his wife and children have never had any complaint that could, with propriety, be imputed to a venereal affection; in this case, we may look upon the complaint as merely local. But should the wife or children of such a patient have even anomalous symptoms, which we might be induced to impute to the effects of an old degenerated venereal disorder, I believe the safer way for the patient is, to be considered by the surgeon, as still infected with the venereal virus,

virus, and put on a suitable course of antivenereals ; which will more immediately tend to secure the success of the bougies.

WE have already observed, that it is but seldom a patient puts himself under the surgeon's direction, immediately on perceiving a diminution of the stream of his urine : he generally does not apply for advice until under some of the following circumstances. 1. When from the frequent calls to make water, and painful efforts he is obliged to exert to expell it, there is imminent danger, on any irregularity, of an entire retention of urine. 2. When he actually labours under one. 3. When in consequence of abscesses, putrid suppurations, &c. fistulæ in perineo take place.

FOR the cure of those various obstructions in the uretra, practitioners unanimously have recourse to the bougie, a variety of forms of which may be found in most authors who have treated on this subject, but all of them liable to one objection ; which is, that except where the obstacles are such

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as oppose but a slight resistance, as the bougies do not possess a sufficient degree of elastic firmness to prevent their losing their form, if we attempt to introduce them beyond any considerable obstacle, they bend ; or if insinuated by force any way through the stricture, it is in a tortuous manner, so that, upon extraction, the end appears broken and twisted like a cork-screw. This is of the utmost disadvantage, as it excites a great deal of unnecessary pain, without answering our intention.

To obviate the consequence of those defects, I have, for some years past, formed the bougies I use on cat-gut of a proportionable thickness. This procures us all the advantages derived from their possessing a proper degree of firmness and flexibility, without any danger either of their breaking or becoming twisted ; and their introduction is attended with less pain than that of the common bougies.

As to the composition of the bougie plaister, we should adapt it to our intention of procuring a suppuration, or healing
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those parts. Bougies therefore may be distinguished into suppurative and epulotic *.

AFTER we have ascertained, as far as possible, the nature of the obstacles in the uretra which we are about to remove, it will be but prudent to confine the patient to an antiphlogistic regimen, for some days previous to our applying the bougies, and to administer some cooling physick; and if he should be of a sanguine habit of body, it will be extremely proper he should lose some blood. For as the mucous membrane of the uretra is extremely sensible, and that the use of the bougies will necessarily excite some degree of inflammation, those precautions will much contribute to obviate

* The following composition, for the suppurative ones, I find to answer very well: Two ounces of old diachylon, one ounce of mercurial plaister, half an ounce of crude antimony, finely levigated. For the epulotic ones:—Melted wax, a pound, Goulard's extract of lead, two ounces: Or, half a pound of yellow wax, olive oil, one pound, red lead finely levigated, ten ounces; melt over a slow fire and boil them to a proper consistence. The first formula is not materially different from that of Mr. Sharp, and the other two are partly Mr. Goulard's composition.

obviate the consequences that might succeed from too great an irritability of the parts.

THE manner in which the patient makes water, and smallness of the stream, will direct us in choosing the size of the bougie; but we should begin with a suppurative one of the smaller size. Having stroaked it with some sweet oil, and put the patient in the same posture as in passing the catheter, although the bougie will sometimes pass readier when he stands or kneels, we gradually introduce it until we come to the obstacle, which if we use any force to pass with the common bougies, they always bend and become twisted; but this does not happen when we use the catgut ones: I seldom fail, even in the first attempt, without any violence to pass them over the obstacles into the bladder. It will be proper to secure them by a ligature of cotton thread.

THE length of time, a bougie should be left in the uretra, will be in proportion to the degree of easiness, with which it
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is borne by the patient. Some will bear it the whole day and night, except when they are obliged to take it out to make water, and then they pass a fresh one in. Others will only bear them a few hours in the four and twenty. However, after a little time, all the pain and uneasiness attending their use generally subside, and an abundant purulent discharge is kept up.

WHEN, from the easiness of passing a proportionably large bougie, the duration of the suppuration, and freedom with which the patient urines, we have reason to imagine the obstacles in the uretra are in a great measure removed, I generally substitute the epulotic bougies to finish the cure. The time that this will take to complete is very uncertain, as some slight obstructions are frequently removed in a few weeks; while the more obstinate, particularly where the prostate gland and verumontanum are engaged, often require many months.

IN all those cases, when the erithism attending the bougies begins to subside, I put the patient on a suitable course of anti-venereals; but I generally find that the mercurial pill, with the extract of hemlock and soap, are most effectual; except where we have reason to imagine the patient to be affected with a confirmed lues; then I prefer the mercurial frictions, used only to the lower extremities.

IF we are not called to the patient, until he actually labours under a retention of urine, in consequence of a venereal stranguery; in this alarming situation, which is generally attended with an high degree of fever, vomitings, and an inflammatory disposition of the prostate gland, neck of the bladder, &c. we must have speedy recourse to bleeding, which should be repeated in proportion to the patient's habit of body, and acuteness of the symptoms. Emollient clysters should be frequently thrown up, and the antiphlogistic regimen be strictly enjoined. The warm bath contributes much to relax those parts, particularly when affected by spasm. All those directions

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ons should certainly be tried, if we are called in time, previous to our attempting to pass the catheter. But if the retention still continues, a small bougie should be first passed into the bladder, if possible, and left there for some time ; which may render the catheter unnecessary, or if not, make it more easily introduced.

IF we are obliged to use the catheter, we should consider that we must pass this instrument through parts highly inflamed, and that the enlargement of the prostate always renders this operation extremely difficult, and often opposes an insurmountable resistance to its introduction into the bladder. It is here we must rely on address, and not on force, which will generally precipitate the parts into a gangrenous state. After we have drawn off the urine, we should pass either a common or canulated bougie into the bladder. When the tumult of those symptoms subsides, we must put the patient on a suitable treatment, that may contribute, with the use of the bougies, to remove the obstructions in the uretra.

BUT in cases, where to those retentions of urine, abscesses of the prostate, or perineum, have succeeded, gangrenous suppurations about the neck of the bladder, infiltrations of urine into the surrounding cellular membrane, distending the perineum, scrotum, &c. which burst in consequence, and a great part sloughs away, leaving many fistulæ up and down the perineum, scrotum and anus, attended with considerable callosities*, from which the patient's urine drips. Those are complaints, which require both time and patience to overcome; but where we very frequently and unexpectedly succeed, by a steady application of the bougies, and the other means already laid down. The canulated bougies are very serviceable in those cases; for when the patient withdraws the common ones, in order to urinate, the water drips down into the fistulæ, which much retards the cure; whereas the canulated ones prevent this from happening. The catheter in

* The mercurial plaister with extract of hemlock, spread upon leather, and applied to the perineum, I have found to contribute very much to the softening of those callosities.

in the figure of S, invented by Petit, I have covered with the bougie plaister, and substituted it in the place of bougies, and found it answered extremely well †.

S E C T. VII.

Of the confirmed pox.

W H E N the local venereal affections, we have already considered, have either continued for a long time, or been injudiciously treated, the virus passes into the circulation, infects the general mass of humours, and produces a confirmed pox. The patient now exhibits a loathsome spectacle : large chancrous ulcers affect the penis ; venereal funguses, or warts, shoot out about the scrotum, perineum and anus ; various copper-coloured spots appear dispersed up and down the surface
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† Vide Note III.

of the body ; ulcerations of the tonsils, palate, nose, &c. nocturnal pains ; exostosis, caries and different enlargements and diseases of the bones. In short there are but few parts or functions of the body, which, under different circumstances, it may not affect. As most authors have already sufficiently enlarged on the symptoms attendant on a confirmed lues, I shall pass over to the consideration of the best method of curing this disorder.

PRACTITIONERS are unanimously agreed, that, in order to cure a confirmed pox, the administration of mercury, in a certain quantity, becomes indispensably necessary ; but the manner, and quantity, in which we should introduce it into the system, and how it acts in effecting a cure, are subjects on which their opinions are extremely divided. Without entering into any prolix detail of those several opinions, I will only offer what I have found, on attentive observation, the most effectual method of curing this disease, under different loathsome circumstances.

ONE principal attention we should have, previous to our adopting any method of treating a patient infected with a confirmed pox, is, the particular habit of body he is of, and the general state of his health ; for upon a due consideration of those points, our success in administering mercury will much depend. It but too frequently happens that, for want of those attentions, many painfull inconveniencies are experienced by the patient in the prosecution of his cure, which but too often, through the neglect of a previous well adapted preparation, will not be effected.

WHEN a course of mercurial frictions is thought necessary, to cure a patient infected with a pox, it often happens, that those are administered without any other preparation than a dose or two of physick ; by which means the patient is at once thrown into an high degree of salivation ; so as entirely to preclude the introducing into the system a sufficient quantity of mercury to effect a cure ; at the same time that he must undergo all the dangerous and loathsome consequences of a salivation *.

THERE are certain constitutional complaints, which render venereal affections very obstinate, and extremely unfavourable to the administration of mercury: Among the many of them, a scorbutic, or scrophulous, habit of body, and great debility in the nervous system justly claim our most serious attention.

It is a general received opinion among practitioners, that, in cases where the venereal virus is combined with a scorbutic habit of body, the good effects of mercury are not only rendered very precarious, but it's administration extremely dangerous: This, under certain limitations, must undoubtedly be allowed.

BUT there exists a great difference in scorbutic affections; for some are of the dry serpiginous scruff-like kind of blotches, or tetter, which shew only an acrimonious and not sceptic disposition of the humours; while those that appear in livid or violet spots scattered over the body, attended with loose, putrid, swelled gums, subject to bleed on trifling occasions, bloated face, weariness,

weariness, cold swellings and pain in the extremities, swelled hypochondria, bad digestion, &c. are sure criterions of the healthy crasis of the fluids being broke down, and that they strongly tend to a state of putrescency.

WHEN we are determined to administer mercury, it is of no small importance to have in view the distinction of scorbutic affections, into the acrimonious and putrid.

I HAVE generally observed, that those affected with dry scorbutic eruptions bear mercury extremely well; and it frequently occurs, that in passing through a course of mercurial frictions, they are cured both of the pox and scurvy. It will be extremely necessary that such patients undergo, for a week at least, a previous preparation before they begin a course of mercurials. For this purpose, they should be put on a light humecting regimen, abstaining from wine, &c. they should be purged occasionally with any of the neutral salts, and drink every day a quart or three prints of decoction of sarsaparilla. It will be particularly

ly useful, they should use the warm bath, every day during the preparation; as it tends to determine the action of the mercury towards the skin, a desirable circumstance in this case. When thus prepared, they may enter on the mercurial course, and be rubbed without any particular regard to the scorbutic affection.

BUT in cases, where the patient's humours strongly tend to putrescency, we must alter our mode of preparation; for such will not derive any advantage from the warm bath, or repeated purging; on the contrary, they generally prove hurtful. A light antiseptic regimen, with a porportionable quantity of red wine, will be necessary; and I have seen the best effects from the patient's drinking the malt infusion, viz. wort, for seven or eight days before he begins with the frictions; which should be administered in small quantities, and at such intervals, as that we may guard against the mercury's rapidly taking to the mouth, a circumstance very frequent in those constitutions.

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As the introduction of mercury into the system tends to break down, and to give, at the same time, a sceptic tendency to the fluids, if, through the course, we give the patient a decoction of bark and sarsaparilla, and allow him a moderate quantity of red-wine, we may obviate many dangerous consequences, that otherwise generally attend those cases, and happily effect a cure, even under those disagreeable circumstances.

IN treating patients of a scrophulous habit of body, that are poxed, if any of the glands about the neck are much enlarged, or that we have reason to suspect the bronchial glands are engaged, we should be careful, by our mode of preparation, to determine the action of the mercury as much as possible to the skin, and not suffer it to affect the mouth much. A soft diluting regimen, mild saline purges, and the warm bath, are the proper means to answer this intention ; and to administer the frictions in small quantities, so as to keep as much as possible to the line of extinction. Through the neglect of those small
 attentions,

attentions, I have frequently seen the patient, at the end of a mercurial course, thrown into a slow hectic, attended with spitting of pus, from the action of the mercury, on the enlarged bronchial glands, having determined them to suppurate.

IN patients, particularly women, who labour under a great debility of the nervous system, we must, in a great measure, dispense with any tedious or evacuating mode of preparation: they cannot well bear a repetition of the warm bath, and must have a reasonable indulgence, in point of regimen, during the course of the frictions; which should be managed with the utmost discretion, so as to avoid, as much as possible, any considerable disturbance. We will derive great advantage from the use of opiates, occasionally given, in order to quiet the many nervous affections, which the slightest course is liable to excite in such constitutions.

BUT in patients, who labour under none of those constitutional disadvantages, what will be the most eligible mode of treatment

ment to adopt, presents itself next to our consideration.

IN all those cases, previous to our administering any form of mercurials, if the situation of the patient permit it, he should be put on a soft, light, antiseptic regimen, for some days; bled, if plethoric, and occasionally purged with some of the neutral salts: two or three warm baths, I have generally found fully sufficient. The patient should drink plentifully, through the day, a light decoction of sarsaparilla, or even barley water may be substituted.

AFTER this preparation, which is absolutely necessary, he may begin the course. The chamber, where he is to continue during the treatment, should be dry and airy. No screens before the doors, or blankets up to the windows, should, by any means, be permitted, nor should his bed-cloths be increased. The patient having put on the common flannel dress, which is necessary, as, in some measure, it may tend to determine the action of the mercury towards the surface, I make himself rub in one drachm of mercury, on one of his legs: he should

should not be striving to rub it dry in, or be too near the fire; as it brings out troublesome pimples, and is in fact superfluous. The rubbing should be continued, the first week, every second night, using a drachm at a time, and rubbing alternately the legs and thighs; but applying the frictions to the arms, I think totally unnecessary.

DURING this time, I leave the mercury to its own free determination: it is seldom that, in this mode of administering it, it takes to the mouth in any disagreeable manner. The patient, during the course, should drink plentifully of some mild diluting liquor, and, in general, abstain from the use of animal food, and, when costive, have a clyster injected.

THE first week being past, the system is, in some measure, familiarized to the use of mercury, and therefore it may be introduced in larger quantities. Each rubbing now may consist of two drachms, to be so continued, as may be judged necessary fully to saturate the fluids, and effect a cure.

IN the prosecution of this course, the patient's mouth will, in general, become sore, and he may spit from two to three pints, in the twenty four hours ; but I have not experienced those disagreeable consequences attending such a spitting, as authors seem so studious to enlarge on. Through the whole course, the patient may walk about his room ; and I have known many transact such business, as did not require their attendance abroad.

PRACTITIONERS have been much divided in opinion, about the quantity of mercury it is necessary to introduce into the system, and the time this will take up, in order to effect a cure, in a confirmed pox. Those are questions, which no man can positively resolve ; as both the quantity of mercury, and time requisite to introduce it, depend on a variety of circumstances, which the event alone determines.

There is no manner of doubt that he, who begins with a small quantity of ointment, and encreases it, as in the method laid down, will be able to introduce, with
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less disturbance, and in a shorter time, a larger quantity of mercury into the system, than he, who begins with two drachms, and is obliged generally to decrease the quantity as he proceeds; and it often happens that, in this method, it gets so suddenly to the mouth, as to oblige us to suspend the frictions for some days.

THERE are many attentions necessary to have, during the treatment of a patient under mercurial frictions; but they are so ably laid down by the celebrated Astruc, and Van Swieten, that it would be superfluous for me to recapitulate them.

IT has been a question long agitated among practitioners, whether the efficacy of mercury, in the cure of a confirmed pox, depended more immediately on it's acting as a specific, than in exciting a salivation. The advocates for it's acting as a specific hold it as a fixed axiom, that the greater quantity of mercury we introduce into the system, and the longer it circulates in the general mass of humours, without exciting either a salivation, or any considerable

considerable evacuation, the more certain we may be of radically curing the most inveterate degree of venereal infection: And one of the most respectable authorities*, in favour of the method of extinction, asserts, as a decisive proof of mercury's acting, as a specific, that the most solid cures, and those that have been effected in the shortest time, have been obtained with the least sensible evacuation.

THE advocates for exciting a salivation think, that a copious spitting is essential in the cure of the pox, as it critically depurates and expells the venereal virus from the general mass of humours. When we bring those different opinions to the test of experience, we will find that both parties have considerably advanced too much in favour of their respective opinions.

THERE are but few constitutions, that will bear with impunity, to be under the influence of mercurials for three or four months; nor can we, in general, without the imminent danger of debilitating the texture

* Vide Dr. Petit's Parallel. p. 73.

texture of the vessels, breaking down the healthy crasis of the fluids, and giving them a septic tendency, introduce so great a quantity of mercury, as those gentlemen so familiarly speak of as necessary to effect a cure; and I am convinced from repeated experience, that, when the system is overcharged with mercury, it often proves an unsurmountable obstacle to the healing of venereal ulcers; for I have often found, in those cases, that, the more mercury was rubbed in after a certain quantity, the worse appearance the ulcers put on*. And, by obstinately persisting in a course of mercurials, many patients have lost their lives, or had their constitutions irreparably impaired; whereas we frequently find, that, when mercurials are left off, and that the patient has recovered his flesh &c. those sores heal of themselves with very little surgical attention.

I PRESUME it will evidently appear, that the subduing of the venereal virus does not so immediately depend, on the quantity of mercury we are able to throw into the system

tem, as on the manner of introducing it ; when we consider, how many have been cured of inveterated poxes, by saline mercurials, particularly the corrosive sublimate, that have resisted every mode of treatment by unction. The mercury that effects the cure, in those cases, must be but a few grains ; and I have seen instances, where the method of extinction has failed, although judiciously conducted ; and by far more mercury introduced, than afterwards effected a cure, by leaving it to act according to it's own free determination, and a gentle spitting kept up.

In whatever mode mercury is exhibited, it's constant and uniform operation will be to encrease some evacuation : If it does not take to the mouth, it will undoubtedly act, either on the surface, intestinal tube, or by the kidneys ; and prove perhaps as powerful an evacuant, either by sweat, stool, or urine, as when a moderate degree of salivation is the consequence ; so that it is impracticable, even were it advisable, to detain a large quantity of mercury rolling in the general mass of humours ; as it's
extreme

extreme divisibility readily admits of it's passing out of the body by most of the excretories.

I BELIEVE experience will convince us of the propriety, of rather leaving mercury to it's own free determination, which is generally to the mouth, than strive to impede this natural tendency, and turn it's action differently. I am very far from being an advocate for an high degree of salivation, or running the risk of its many painful and disagreeable inconveniencies: I am convinced, that many dangerous consequences proceed from throwing mercury imprudently into patients, perhaps unprepared to receive it; by which the whole head and face become so swelled, and such a flux is raised, as to prevent our administering a sufficient quantity of mercury to effect a cure, by which means, our views are frustrated. But this is an unwarrantable abuse of mercury, and to which every method of cure is liable, and cannot, with any degree of reason, be brought as an argument against the method already laid down.

WHOEVER will attentively consider the good effects, that mercury produces on venereal sores, will find that they are always most conspicuous, when the mouth begins to be sore, and a gentle spitting takes place: painful, indurated and gleety ulcers, in general, soon change their appearance; the pain subsides, the hardness begins to dissolve, and the gleety discharge turns to good pus; the ulcers put on a healthy florid appearance, and soon cicatrize. All this so remarkably depends on the mercury being left to its own determination, that some practitioners purposely make the mouth sore, in order to change the condition of ulcers for the better.

IF we suppose that, in order to cure a confirmed pox, it will be necessary, in general, that the patient rub from three to five ounces of mercurial ointment, and that the time it will be prudent to keep the patient in a mercurial course ought not, except in some particular cases, to exceed six weeks, at farthest, I would be glad to be informed, how we can introduce, in

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that time, a sufficient quantity of mercury, and avoid making the patient spit, with all the previous preparation that is laid down, which few will or ought to submit to: This will take up from two to three, or more, months to effect: and after all, the cure will remain doubtful; so that notwithstanding the strong assertions of those gentlemen of curing confirmed poxes more effectually, and in a shorter space of time, by extinction than by any other method, I must own it appears to me rather paradoxical; nor is this opinion grounded on speculation, for I have repeatedly tried both methods, and am fully convinced that is the best, in which the mercury is left to it's own natural tendency, and the frictions so administered, as to keep up a gentle spitting; but avoiding, at the same time, all the dangerous consequences of an high salivation*.

It is difficult to reconcile the strong prejudice, that seems to appear in the greater number of our most respectable authors, against the internal administration of saline mercurial

* Vide Note VI.

mercurial preparations, with the general practice of prescribing them in most venereal cases : If there was so much danger to be apprehended from their use, as they strive to inculcate, prudent practitioners would have long since abandoned them ; but, far from this being the case, they often find them possessed of a superior efficacy to unction, in the cure of some venereal affections. There are but very few of them that may not be given with the utmost safety to the patient.

THAT there are some constitutions, which the internal use of mercurials will not agree with, and, if persisted in, may be productive of dangerous effects, must be allowed ; but every prudent practitioner will avoid ordering them in those cases, or, if he does, he will immediately leave them off, on their disagreeing with the patient.

THERE are few mercurial preparations more decried, and notwithstanding more generally given, than the corrosive sublimate in solution. If we consult the me-

moirs of the royal academy of surgery*, we will find Mr. Pibrac, in a memoir, produces many fatal instances, that even it's external, as well as internal use, has been productive of. In most treatises we find a studied display of various nervous affections, vomitings, dysenteric purgings and death, being the consequence of administering this medicine.

THAT corrosive sublimate is liable to produce all those dreadful effects, if given in too large a dose, is as true, as that an over-dose of opium will set a man to sleep for ever; yet I believe, notwithstanding, there are but few that will be intimidated from giving a grain of this inestimable medicine on a proper occasion; nor need we be afraid of giving corrosive sublimate, when indicated, provided we give it according to the direction of Van Swieten; or begin with a quarter of a grain †. It is to the abuse of this medicine,

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* Vide Tom. IV. p. 153.

† I have found the following formula very eligible : Corrosive

and giving an over-dose, that we must attribute those fatal consequences.

THE venereal affections, in which I have principally found the administering of the solution to be far preferable to the treatment by unction, are those poxes I have already described, that have been acquired by simple contact; those that are attended with warts of the glans, penis, &c. exostosis and enlargement of the bones; and in short, all pocky cutaneous eruptions: In those several cases, I have frequently experienced the good effects of the solution, if given prudently, and a proper regimen enjoined. In the first case, which is, in general, only to be met with among the lower order of people, and which often runs through a whole

corrosive sublimate, twelve grains; camphor, four grains; triturate them, and gradually add a quart of brandy, and an ounce of syrrop of wild poppies: Or, corrosive sublimate, sal ammon. each twelve grains; triturate them, add a quart of distilled water and an ounce of syrrop of orange peels; of either, a spoonful to be given night and morning, which may be gradually encreased, if found necessary: The patient should drink a pint of barley water, or any suitable decoction, after each spoonful.

whole family, and seems to be the same disease as the fibbens, * so common in some parts of Scotland, after the patient has gone through the general preparatory course, and taken three or four warm baths, the solution should be given, along with a decoction of roots of bardana, or, in some cases, of sarsaparilla. I have generally found that the prohibiting the use of animal food, during the course, conduces to the patient's being sooner well. If we begin with the dose of a quarter of a grain, twice a day, except in some irritable constitutions, it will seldom affect the stomach or bowels: We may after gradually encrease it to the full dose of half a grain. The patient should dilute plentifully through the day; and I have found, that, by their wearing of a flannel shirt next their skin, the stomach or bowels are not so apt to be affected,

THERE are no poxes, in general, harder to cure, than those attended with venereal warts: I have seen cases of this kind resist

* Vide Hill's Cases in Surgery, p. 223.

first every mode of treatment, particularly repeated mercurial frictions ; which, when too long persevered in, have terminated in a fatal rapid hectic : * I have recently found that the solution, with a strong decoction of sarsaparilla, or guaiacum, bids fairer for removing them, than any other mode of treatment I have seen practised. During the course, the warts should be washed, two or three times a day, with a solution stronger than that given inwardly.

IN venereal enlargements of the bones, and cutaneous eruptions, which we often find elude the force of mercurial unction, the solution frequently effects a cure, if given with a strong decoction of guaiacum, or sarsaparilla ; but in diseases of the bones, I prefer the guaiacum.

THE superior degree of penetrability, if I may so express myself, which this medicine possesses above all other mercurials, and it's action being chiefly determined to the surface, may be the reason, why we
find

* Vide Note VII.

find in it so powerful a resource, in many venereal cases. But it is judiciously observed by the great Van Swieten, that it should not be given to those, who have a husky dry breast, who are troubled with a cough, whose nervous system is excessively irritable, or who are subject to any hemorrhage ; for such will not bear this medicine without detriment, even although it be ever so prudently administered.

NOTES.

N O T E S.

N O T E I. p. 20.

THE following Cases are examples of what we have asserted.

C A S E I.

1772.

A GENTLEMAN went into a brothel, and lay with a girl : In six weeks after, he had the glans all ulcerated, and a terrible phymosis. I treated him, and in some time he got well. During the six weeks before the disorder appeared, he had frequent communication with his wife, who never had the least complaint in consequence.

C A S E

C A S E II.

September, 1778.

A WOMAN had been ten years absent from her husband : On their coming again together, she began, in about three weeks, to complain of a forenefs about the labia, which daily encreased : About five months after, she applied to me, when she was not well able to walk. On examining her, I found the entire labia covered with venereal chancres, some ulcerated. On examining the husband, he had not the least venereal appearance ; although, during the time, he had frequent connection with her, and she conceived : But he said he had some slight ulcers, about two years before, on the glans, which were soon cured, and he never had any complaint after : However, as he underwent no regular treatment for them, another gentleman and I were of opinion that he poxed his wife, notwithstanding

standing his having no external appearance. I put her through a course of mercurial frictions, and in five weeks she was well. I never heard the least complaint from either party since.

N O T E II. P. 42.

OF this the following instance is a melancholy proof.

C A S E III.

A Young girl of eighteen, on her first essay, contracted some venereal sores, extremely painful, about the labia, which were greatly swelled. As she was of a full sanguine habit of body, I advised that, previous to putting her on any course of active mercurials, she should undergo the general antiphlogistic preparation; by which
means

means, both the pain and inflammation would have gradually subsided, and mercury be administered without any dangerous consequences: But this advice was not followed; for she was immediately put on a course of mercurial frictions, and the sores were every day dressed with mercurial ointment. The event was that every symptom rapidly encreased; so that, in about fifteen days after, I found her one of the most loathsome objects I ever beheld: All the labia, perineum, &c. in a frightful gangrene, and such a stench came from the parts, as was intolerable. She died the next day.

N O T E III. p. 81.

I H A V E at present a striking instance of this under my care.

C A S E IV.

A MAN aged forty seven, who had a clap eight years ago, unattended with any particular circumstance, about six years after, began to make urine with difficulty, and in a smaller stream than usual: Last September, he had some small abscesses appear, from time to time, about the perineum and one side of the anus, from which after bursting, his urine dripped away. When he applied to me, about two months ago, I found the under part of the scrotum, perineum, and one side of the anus, extremely enlarged and callous, and beset with five or six fistulous holes, by which most of his urine passed, very little coming the natural way.

AFTER

AFTER using the suppurative bougie for some time, by which I procured an abundant suppuration, the strictures were so far removed, as to admit the introduction of Petit's catheter in the figure of S which I covered with the bougie plaister: This procured every advantage which must arise from drawing off the water the natural way, and hindering it from dripping through the fistulæ. It is surprising to think how soon the enlargement began to subside, and the callosities to be melted down. I took the precaution, during the use of the bougies, to put him on a light course of mercurial frictions, applied only to the legs.

ALL the enlargement and callosities are at present totally vanished; he makes water in a full stream, and at the time there appears only the smallest ouzing from one of the fistulæ. I keep him to the use of the epulotic bougies, the largest of which he passes with the greatest ease; and I have every probability that he will shortly be perfectly well.

NOTE IV. p. 83.

THE following case is a curious instance of this; and I shall insert the other, as being somewhat similar.

CASE V.

July the 4th, 1776.

A MAN aged twenty six came to the hospital in order to be tapped. On examining him, I found, that, about ten months before, he had been salivated for the venereal disease, which he contracted from his wife, who was infected by a nurse child: his symptoms, at that time, were large fleshy excrescences: Although he rubbed but two drachms of ointment, every third night; yet it took soon to his mouth, and swelled him amazingly, so that he did not rub eight drachms in all: However his complaints all vanished, and he was discharged, seemingly cured, at the end of five weeks. From that time, I
did

did not see him, until he presented himself vastly big with the ascites: He told me that, some time after he left the hospital, he was seized with a quartan ague, in consequence of which he became dropfical. I am sure he had, at least, twelve quarts of water in him, was extreamely thirsty, quite emaciated, and made little or no urine.

ON considering that, when he was in the hospital before, the mercury took so suddenly to his mouth, that there was not a sufficient quantity introduced to cure him; and that although he had no apparent symptom of any venereal taint, yet it was more than probable the present complaint took it's rise from it; I determined, just as I was about to tap him, to try mercury once again: But first I gave him five grains of calomel for two nights successively, and purged it off with the pulv. cathar. I found it agreed well with him, and put by the aguish paroxism.

AFTER this I removed him into the flux-ward, and administered the unction gradually

gradually, at a drachm each time: He spit copiously and urined abundantly: When he had rubbed for about eight days, all his symptoms, thirst &c. disappeared; his belly became of a natural size, in about four weeks; and he gained strength, and was discharged the hospital in about six, to appearance perfectly cured. I gave him some deobstruent pills to take home with him, by way of precaution.

C A S E VI.

1772.

A WOMAN came to the hospital, big with an ascites: Her husband, a musician, died some time before of a pocky hectic: She herself, before this time, had been treated for venereal complaints. Her belly was very big, and the navel inflamed; so that, at night, it burst, and discharged a great quantity of water: However, as there was much remaining, she was tapped, and discharged eight quarts of water, that was muddy, and seemed as if there

were feces mixed among it. The next day, she took a purging, which resembled the water discharged by tapping, attended with severe gripes. She had some doses of rhubarb from time to time. The purging subsided, and she gained strength. I then put her on a course of mercurial frictions, by which means all her dropfical complaints were removed, and she was perfectly cured.

CASE

N O T E V. p. 94.

I SHALL produce the following, among many others, as an instance of this.

C A S E VII.

1776.

A YOUNG gentleman, subject to a spitting of blood, and palpitations of the heart, in his first essay, got a small ulcer under the frenum. He applied immediately, and, for two months, took a variety of mercurials without any effect on the ulcer: Mercur. calcinat. and the decoction of sarsaparilla was what was chiefly ordered. The tonsils now became enlarged, and he applied to me. He seemed a bad subject for mercurials, being highly scorbutic. After ten days previous preparation, he began with the mercurial frictions, a drachm every second night, and continued them so for ten days, after which he had a drachm and an half. Neither the small ulcer, nor tonsils, grew

better; the latter were very large, and in the clefts were small bits like suet, which I took out from time to time; and after eight weeks, all the progress I made was that the tonsils became less: The last fortnight, he took three half pints a day of decoction of sarsaparilla and bark, with some drops of Huxham's antimonial wine in each draught. I found mercury would not do; and latterly observed that, the night after rubbing, the ulcer and tonsils were remarkably worse.

I DETERMINED to leave off mercury, and had him washed out: The little ulcer healed with a lotion of the sacchar. saturn. in water, and the tonsils grew gradually better: They remained enlarged for some time, but as he came to his strength and flesh, they subsided, and all venereal appearances vanished. He has continued ever since perfectly well.

I AM sure that if I persisted to rub him, in hopes of having his complaints subdued, he would have sunk under the treatment.

N O T E

N O T E VI. p. 98.

I SHALL bring the following instance as a proof, that the worst species of pox may be cured, in six weeks, by rubbing three ounces and an half of mercurial ointment.

C A S E VIII.

May 1778.

A GENTLEMAN, aged thirty six, lay for some nights with a girl, who recently came out of a salivation. In some days after, all the inside of his mouth was speckled over with small ulcers, which caused the most profuse salivation I ever saw, attended with the severest sweats; so that, in the course of three weeks, he was melted down from a robust man to a mere skeleton:

skeleton: His foreteeth, with the alveoli, dropped out, and he broke out all over in venereal pustules, and the cornea of one eye became vastly thickened. He was a very hard liver, and subject besides to scorbutic eruptions.

In the beginning, he had the bark in decoction, an opiate at night, and gargles of decoction of *farfaparilla*, to which was added thirty grains of corrosive sublimate to a quart. The sweats and the spitting diminished.

As he was so much exhausted, I judged most prudent to send him into the country, before any farther administration of mercury took place: He remained there for three weeks, and drank the goat's whey; but the pustules, that entirely covered his surface, became ulcers, attended with pains in his limbs, and the most profuse sweats I ever saw; and the left eye had the cornea thickened, so that he could not see, and matter was forming behind it. He was so weak that he could hardly stand.

As there was no time to lose, I immediately put him on a decoction of *sarsaparilla* and bark, and rubbed him with a drachm of mercurial ointment, every two nights successively, resting the third night, sometimes oftener. As the mercury got in, his sweats began to diminish, and he came to his appetite so fast, that at last he had a voracious one; his spitting also subsided, and some of the sockets of his teeth came gradually away, and in the course of six weeks he was entirely cured.

WHAT deterred me at first, from immediately administering the frictions, was the profuse spitting and sweats; but I am now convinced that mercury was the only specific to cure both. This man was raised, from a state of general putrefaction, to health and vigour; for under the treatment he gained both flesh and strength.

NOTE

N O T E VII. p. 103.

THE following cases were inserted in the Edinburgh Medical Commentaries, but as they are extremely applicable to the present subject, I shall reproduce them here.

C A S E IX.

A YOUNG Gentleman, some time in 1772, contracted a clap, for which, I believe, he underwent no regular treatment. Three months after, he came to me for advice, about an abscess on the verge of the anus: He told me that, before it appeared, he had a swelling in the groin, which went back. As the abscess was full of matter, I opened it; and finding the rectum thin and bare, I simply divided it. Every thing went on well. After the suppuration was completely

completely formed, as there was a strong presumption he was poxed, I advised him to rub in a drachm of mercurial ointment every second night ; but with this he would not comply ; so I put him on a course of the mercurial pill, with a decoction of far-saparrilla. In three weeks, he seemed quite well ; but then he shewed me, for the first time, three or four warts he had behind the glans penis. I rubbed them down with lunar caustic, and enjoined him to use the pills and decoction, at least three weeks more. He followed my advice, and the warts disappeared. After that, he went into the country, where he soon recovered his former habit of body.

FOUR months after, he came to me, and shewed me the warts grown again ; but said he never enjoyed better health, and would take no medicine, but begged I would give him some caustic, which I did ; and thereby he occasionally took them down, and continued in perfect health for a year, from the time I first had the care of him. But then another abscess, similar to the first, appeared on the other side of
the

the anus, which I opened in the same manner I had done before.

ANOTHER gentleman of the profession was now called in, and, in consultation, was of opinion the patient was still poxed, and that it was absolutely necessary he should be salivated. I urged that, although there was a probability it might be so, yet as I had often seen warts remain after repeated salivations, when it might be presumed the virus was subdued and the complaint but local, and, as our patient had, at present, a dry husky cough and hoarseness, it would be better to treat him in a more gentle manner, and wait the effect. This advice was not received, and his friends put him under the care of the other gentleman, who removed him to a nurse-keeper's, where he had him nine weeks in a salivation. His sore soon healed, but the warts remained unaltered; his strength was much exhausted, and, the last week, he began to spit blood. It was now found, although too late, that mercurials would not do; and, as the last resource, he was sent to Wicklow, it being the beginning
of

of May, to drink goat's whey: But spitting of pus soon succeeded to that of blood, attended with a constant pain in the breast, colliquative sweats, purgings at times, &c. Three weeks before he died, I saw him, and he shewed me the warts still unchanged. He died, to the last degree consumptive, in August.

C A S E X.

IN 1772, a young man about twenty-one or twenty-two, in company with some other young men, being all drunk, lay with a common prostitute: They were all diseased in consequence. He had a troublesome heat in making urine, but no running, and soon after, a number of warts appeared on the glans and behind it. He went from one practitioner to another in the country, and took a variety of mercurials, without any alteration, but when he took them down by caustic; which produced but a temporary effect, as they soon
sprung

sprung up afresh. He at last came up to Dublin to have my advice: He had now been for a year diseased, and never had any other venereal appearance; his constitution seemed only affected by the great quantity of medicine he had taken.

As there seemed to be no doubt of his being poxed, the different treatments he underwent having been by no means regular, I advised him to stay under my care for some time, to which he consented. I began with bleeding and gentle purging, and put him on a soft mild diet, &c. and made him take the warm bath. After twelve days preparation, during which time he bathed twelve times, I began with the mercurial frictions, using only a drachm of ointment each time, and continued them so as not to let the mercury affect his mouth; the warts were left without any application, to wait the event. In six weeks, not finding them likely to go off, I rubbed them with the lunar caustic; but in a little time they grew up as big as ever. I then had recourse to the lapis infernalis, and made the whole interior part of the
prepuce

prepuce and exterior of the glans slough off ; but still they grew up again ; and after he had been under my care for ten weeks, during which time he rubbed in five ounces of ointment, by the two last of which I made him spit, to see the effect, I was obliged to send him into the country, in danger of a hectic, the warts being as large as ever.

WITH goat's whey, and a milk diet, he recovered in a short time ; but the uneasiness of mind he suffered made him apply to practitioners in the country, when he took, as he told me, a vast quantity of pills, &c. He came up to Dublin once more, after being ten months in the country : It was in June, and he was much in the same situation as when I first saw him, affected with no other complaint but the warts. In consultation with two gentlemen of the profession, it was agreed he should pass, after the necessary preparations, through a course of frictions, which was continued for eight weeks, without having much effect on his mouth. What
most

most encouraged us was that, the first four weeks, the warts seemed to wither and drop off; but in the latter end they grew up afresh. We tried every kind of escarotic, strong and weak, those mentioned in the Medical Observations, mercurial purges, &c. to no purpose. At length we left them off, and put him on the extract of cicuta, and a light decoction of bark.

He now began, after four months from the time he came up to town, to grow weak, sweat at night, and spit some blood: He was very much emaciated, and lost his appetite; his legs swelled, and his pulse was extremely quick. Recourse was had, in vain, to asses milk, Seltzer water, Peruvian bark, &c. He went to the country, in October 1774, and died consumptive, in December following, the warts remaining as large as ever. The lungs, in both these patients, seemed to be the parts chiefly affected.

A GENTLEMAN of eminence in the profession has lately communicated to me two cases

cases of this kind. A man, who had no other appearance of the venereal disease but a small wart, which grew out of the meatus urinarius, yet communicated the infection to his wife in a more virulent degree; for, in a few days after their connection, she began to complain, and warts appeared on the labia. They both passed through the most regular course of mercurial frictions: the husband, during the time, having rubbed in seven ounces and a half of mercurial ointment, and the wife five; the warts were fumigated with cinnabar, taken down by caustics, &c. But after five months treatment, which proved ineffectual, mercury was obliged to be laid aside, and the warts still remain.

IT is in those cases that I have found the solution, with the decoction of sarsaparilla, or guaiacum, extremely effectual; but I must own I prefer the latter. In three patients, which lately occurred to me in those circumstances, after previously preparing them, I put two of them on the solution, with the decoction of guaiacum,
and

and to the other I gave that of *sarsaparilla*. The three were cured in the course of six weeks, or two months ; but I observed, that the warts disappeared much sooner on the two that drank the decoction of *guaiacum*.

The following case proves, that those appearances may sometimes remain, after repeated mercurial treatments, as local affections ; but I must confess they are always very suspicious.

C A S E

C A S E XI.

A COACHMAN, after some claps not regularly treated, had warts behind the glans, and at the opening of the meatus urinarius. He applied to me, at St. Nicholas's Hospital, in 1770, where he was twice salivated that year, and took a variety of medicines : He had them often consumed by caustic ; but still they are at present, 1779, as big as they were, when I saw them first : He rubs them down, from time to time, with lunar caustic, is strong and robust, enjoys excellent health, has been married these seven years, and has had three healthy children. The wife had never the least complaint ; and he has taken no medicine since the first year.

N O T E VIII.

THERE is a method of introducing mercury, by rubbing calomel on the inside of the mouth, lately proposed by Mr. Clare *, and recommended by Dr. Hunter and Mr. Cruikshank. As the thought was ingenious, and the authorities respectable, I resolved to give it a fair trial. For that purpose, I selected ten patients under different circumstances of venereal infection; but all of them had either chancrous ulcers on the glans penis, or ulcerated buboes; cases in which we find, in general, the good effects of mercury soon become conspicuous. I superintended their rubbing from three to five grains of calomel, every day for three weeks, on the inside of the mouth, in conformity to the direction of those gentlemen. It seemed to me that very little, if any, of the mercury entered the system, except what the patients were

* Vide, Essay on Abscesses.

were obliged to swallow, in the constant flow of saliva, that the rubbing excited. Some had their mouths made sore, which appeared the effect of the constant friction ; but in none could I perceive any amendment in their several complaints, and some of them encreased ; so that I was obliged to give over this mode of treatment, and adopt another.

I PRESUME that if we have a mind to try the effects of calomel, in the cure of the venereal disease, it will be found a much more eligible method to give it in pills, and trust to the absorbing surface of the stomach for it's introduction into the system.

F I N I S.

